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LETTER OF THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LETTER

to the Congress of the United States of America

The Third Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has discussed the question of creating a prerequisite for removing tension in Korea and accelerating the country's independent and peaceful reunification and sends this letter to both the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America.

All the Korean people and the peace-lovers the world over were greatly stirred up by the bright prospects for the preservation of peace in Korea and the settlement of her reunification problem, when the North-South Joint Statement was made public in July 1972.

But today, after the lapse of almost two years since then, developments in Korea have been quite the opposite to what the people had expected.

Tension seemed to be relaxed temporarily, but it has been aggravated again. Only military confrontation and war danger have daily been increasing, instead of prospects for peaceful reunification.

The prevailing situation naturally causes apprehensions of the people of the world and urgently demands that proper measures for the solution of the situation be adopted.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea still firmly believes that for the prevention of war and the removal of tension in Korea and the promotion of her peaceful reunification, it is necessary, first of all, to eliminate the military confrontation between the north and the south.

In fact, under the condition of huge armed forces standing opposed to each other as today, it is impossible to successfully solve any problems, big and small, which are related to the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Ever since the armistice in Korea the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has put forward time and again various reasonable proposals such as proposals for the reduction of armaments and the conclusion of a peace agreement, as a step for converting armistice into a durable peace.

Even after the start of the dialogue between the north and the south, we presented the elimination of the north-south military confrontation as a question to be settled before everything else.

If any of our peaceful proposals had been put into practice, durable peace would have been ensured in Korea and tension would not have been so aggravated again as we see today.

The south Korean authorities, however have not responded to our proposals for the stoppage of the reinforcement of armed forces and arms drive, the reduction of the armies and armaments, the withdrawal of foreign troops and the conclusion of a peace agreement but have pushed forward war preparations.

Backed by the United States, the south Korean authorities have incessantly clamoured about the fictitious "threat of southward aggression," implored the prolonged presence of the US troops in south Korea and deliberately aggravated the relations between the

north and the south in an attempt to oppose the country's reunification and repress the south Korean people.

With a view to covering up such acts of theirs, recently they put forward a proposal to conclude a "non-aggression pact" with us.

But it is well known to the world that it is not the south Korean authorities but the US commander who holds the prerogative of supreme command of the army in south Korea today. The south Korean authorities who do not have the prerogative of supreme command of the army propose to conclude a "non-aggression pact" while leaving the US troops to stay on in south Korea. This is an empty talk without any guarantee of peace and accordingly, is not worth discussing at all.

It is the United States that has encouraged the south Korean authorities in all their acts to turn down our independent and peace-loving proposals unconditionally.

Even after the dialogue started between the north and south of Korea, the United States has increased the military aid and armed support to south Korea, saying that the dialogue should be backed up by the armed forces, and has frequently committed provocations against the northern half of the Republic, staged war exercises and perpetrated espionage acts by sending high-speed, high-altitude reconnaissance planes and thus has intensified tension ceaselessly.

We, therefore, consider that the responsibility for the failure in Korea's reunification and for the current tense situation and danger of war in Korea rests chiefly with the US government authorities.

It is becoming increasingly evident that as long as the US troops remain in south Korea it is impossible to remove tension and consolidate peace in Korea and that the south Korean authorities have no intention and ability at all to solve this problem.

The reality calls for concluding a peace agreement directly with the United States which stations its troops in south Korea and holds the prerogative of supreme command of all the forces, in order to create a prerequisite for removing tension in Korea, eliminating the external factors obstructing Korea's independent and peaceful reunification and for enabling the Korean people to solve the reunification problem independently by themselves.

The Chinese People's Volunteers withdrew from Korea long ago, and no troops of the "UN forces" but the US troops remain there. Under this condition, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States, the signatories to the Korean Armistice Agreement, are the virtual parties concerned.

At present the Armistice Agreement itself has become already outdated and does not conform to the reality in many respects. To replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement does not brook any further delay.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea considers that a peace agreement to be concluded with the United States of America may include the following measures:

Firstly, both sides shall pledge to each other not to invade the other side and shall remove all dangers of direct armed conflict.

The United States shall be bound in duty not to incite the south Korean authorities to the war provocation manoeuvres and fascist repression of the south Korean people or patronize them, not to hinder the north and south of Korea from reunifying it independently and peacefully in accordance with the North-South Joint Statement and not to meddle in the internal affairs of Korea.

Secondly, both sides shall discontinue the

reinforcement of armed force and arms drive and stop introducing all weapons, combat equipment and war supplies from beyond the boundary of Korea.

Thirdly, the foreign troops in south Korea shall strip themselves of the "UN forces" helmet and all of them withdraw at the earliest possible date, taking all weapons along.

Fourthly, Korea shall not be reduced to a military or operational base for any foreign country after the withdrawal of all the foreign troops from south Korea.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea formally proposes that talks be held for the conclusion of a peace agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America, with the above-mentioned measures as a premise.

The talks may be composed of delegates of

a higher level than those to the Military Armistice Commission now functioning at Panmunjom and Panmunjom or a third country may be designated as the place of talks.

The relations will be improved between the north and south of Korea and an atmosphere favourable to the independent, peaceful solution of the reunification problem be created when the question of replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement in Korea is settled successfully.

Our new proposal fully accords with the interests of the people of the United States and of world peace as well.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expects that the Congress of the United States of America and the US government authorities will direct serious attention to our new peaceful proposal and make an affirmative response to this.

**THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF
THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF KOREA**

Pyongyang, March 25, 1974